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OBSERVATIONS
ON
EMIGRATION
TO
THE UNITED STATES
OF
AMERICA.

ILLUSTRATED BY ORIGINAL FACTS.

BY WILLIAM SAVAGE.

L O N D O N :

PRINTED FOR SHERWOOD, NEELY, AND JONES,
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ADVERTISEMENT.

IN offering to the Public the following Observations, I am actuated by no other motive than a desire to give information to a great number of persons who decide to emigrate to the United States of America, without duly weighing the consequences, and the contrast between that country and their native land.

Thousands, and tens of thousands, have hastily resolved, and as hastily carried their resolution into effect, without consideration; the result has been poverty and discontent in by far the greater number of instances; very few, comparatively, have succeeded; and great numbers, who had the means and could bear to be ridiculed as being unsteady, and not knowing their own minds, have returned.

The questions may be asked—Why I write on this subject?—What information do I possess?—and whence was it derived? The questions would be fair, and I think it will be better to anticipate them, by stating the answers, that the reader may know the authority for the opinions and facts in the following pages.

I had a serious design myself of going to America, and residing in Kentucky; but before I carried the design into execution, I thought it reasonable, and an act of justice to my family, to endeavour to know something of the country to which I intended taking them; and this I had an opportunity of obtaining, from having a number of friends and acquaintance who had emigrated to Kentucky: I held a correspondence with some of them; some returned, with whom I conversed; some have been in England on business; and I have been favoured with copies of letters to friends and relations from others.

I thus became possessed of a great deal of information respecting the manners, customs, and mode of living, with many facts that were told me of those I was acquainted

with ; which proved sufficient to deter me from pursuing my intended plan of emigration : and I shall feel gratified if this sketch shall be the means of causing one family to pause and satisfy themselves of the probability of bettering their situation, before they embark in such an undertaking.

The facts I have stated were told me by friends, in conversation, who had no motive for deception ; and who felt that relating to me anecdotes of those I knew would be interesting.

The instances I have adduced as illustrations are of Yorkshire persons, and generally from my native district ; this has arisen from the interest we take in inquiring after those we have been acquainted with ; and I have no doubt but every district in England could furnish similar instances.

This explanation I trust will be satisfactory as to the sources from which I have derived my information ; the facts have never before been published, on which account they may excite some interest ; and they may be equally relied on, as if a person had been in Kentucky and related them from his own knowledge, and perhaps more

so; because they are derived from the experience of numbers, who were resident in the country, and whose information was greater than a stranger's could have been, with less likelihood of being deceived.

I commenced writing these Observations for a different purpose; the causes that induced me to change my intention are not material to state, for they are of a private nature, and not sufficiently interesting.

I have thought a low priced pamphlet the most likely to be seen and read by those who are most interested in the subject; I have therefore given it in that form, and compressed the observations, and limited the number of facts, considerably within what I had the means of stating.

Feeling conscious of their truth I venture to lay them before the Public, thinking they may be useful; and as I dislike anonymous publications of this nature, I avow my name, that the reader may judge what confidence to place in the statements.

20th Nov. 1819.

ON EMIGRATION.

“Look before you Leap.”

AT this time, when various causes, both political and private, have widely diffused among the inhabitants of Europe a spirit for emigration to foreign climes, where it is generally supposed more freedom and fewer burdens exist, to affect the population than in their native countries, it has been thought that a few observations, pointing out some of the disadvantages which attend those who bend their steps to the principal focus of emigration, might be advantageous, as a caution, for their future proceedings.

The value of these Observations must entirely depend on their accuracy; for, if any fact that may be stated should be controverted, it will of course materially depreciate them in the eyes of those to whom they are addressed.

The United States of America have been for many years the magnet that has attracted the Disaffected in Politics—the Swindler—

the Ruined Tradesman—and the Agriculturist with small capital, who has been weighed down by the effect of the taxes of this country—by the laws and customs of other countries—so as to prevent him ameliorating his condition in life, and making some provision for his surviving family.

A number of books have been written and published by interested persons, recommending the United States as a land of freedom; the inhabitants liberal; and particular districts as flowing with milk and honey; and where the Settler might obtain, from the fertility of the soil, and the temperature of the climate, all the necessities, and even the luxuries of life, comparatively without labour.

These books in general have been published by those who had purchased large tracts of land, at the extremity of a country that could hardly be said to be settled, and on the frontiers of the Indians; and who, for the purpose of selling this land at a great profit, represent the part of the country where their purchase is situated, however true or false, as a terrestrial paradise.

The relation of a few plain facts will strip this land of freedom, plenty, and happiness, of many of its advantages; and, in the eyes of the unprejudiced and the disinterested, will perhaps reduce it far below England, even

with all her burdens, in the real comforts of life.

I shall speak more particularly of what are termed the Western States: and as Kentucky took the lead; has now a great population, arising from emigration; is the country to which nearly all the Settlers bend their course; from which the ramifications extend—and as its climate, and the fertility of its soil, have been so much praised, it may fairly be taken as a specimen, from which we may deduce the advantages and comforts to be derived by an individual, or a family, making choice of America for their future home.

I will suppose a family landed at Baltimore, which is the port most generally chosen, as being the most convenient for travelling over the Alleghany Mountains to Pittsburg or Wheeling, the places of embarkation on the Ohio, to fall down the stream to Kentucky.

The emigrant in the first instance, has, either to purchase a waggon and horses, at an extravagant price, or else to hire them, at a rate equally extravagant, to transport his family, implements, luggage, &c. over the rough Alleghany Mountains on paths, which cannot be called roads, for 150 miles; he then arrives at Pittsburg on the Ohio, where he has frequently to wait some weeks at a considerable expense, before he can purchase or hire, a

boat to convey his family and property down the Ohio, a distance of 332 miles, when he arrives at Kentucky; but, as this is only travelling, to arrive at the place of his destination, I shall not lay any stress on the inconveniences and expenses attending the journey; although some travellers have spoken almost with horror of the dreariness of the way, and of the effect on the mind in passing down the river for such a distance, amidst forests for days together where the rays of the Sun do not penetrate through the trees, and where no human being is to be seen;—all is dull, solitary, gloomy—nothing to cheer, nothing to enliven the mind;—the eye sees nothing, but the sky over the head, and the banks of the river bounded with trees, through which it in vain attempts to penetrate. The only consolation is, that this dreadful solitude will terminate when he arrives at the end of his journey.

Arrived at the end of his journey, and once more among human beings, he naturally becomes anxious to select a situation on which he can settle—this is an affair of difficulty, and on which his future prospects and comforts depend, although at the outset it may appear easy as the imagination can possibly conceive; for who could suppose difficulty in purchasing land for a farm, when he

is surrounded by millions of acres, some covered with forests of immense extent, and the other parts extensive plains, without a tree growing on them, and every inhabitant about him anxious to sell.

We will presume that he has made choice of a piece of land situated near a town, or near what is called a village; and that he has sufficient money at his command to pay for his purchase—here then commences a system of deception, which he will find acted on in every transaction he engages in with the inhabitants. Every person wants to sell; and it is a lamentable fact, that they practise every art to deceive, that want and cunning can devise; and hesitate at no falsehoods to take advantage of the honest mind—the inexperienced—or the unwary.

The farm that he has selected may have some land cleared, and a log house on it; but the price that is asked startles him, being considerably more than he calculated on; not being aware of the great difference in the value of what is termed settled and unsettled land; and having calculated on purchasing at the prices he has seen stated in Europe: but he and his family have travelled some thousands of miles with great fatigue and expense, and have at length arrived at their favourite destination. Although disappointed in the

first instance, they cannot retract; and, unless he resolves to penetrate the gloom of the forest, far removed from any other settlers, or society, he must resolve to purchase at a price far exceeding his first supposition, perhaps one tenth of the quantity of land that he felt confident of obtaining for the same sum, and which drains his small capital to the dregs.

He is assured by the vendor that he has had a higher price offered repeatedly for the land, and produces documents to prove his assertion; so that the emigrant is at last tempted to believe he is making a good purchase—the bargain is closed—the money is paid—and he is put in possession of his farm.

During the treaty he receives no information from the neighbours to undeceive him; they remain passive observers at the least, although they more frequently assist in deceiving him respecting the price of the land, in order to enhance the value of their own: and it is only when too late to rectify the evil, that he discovers he has been tricked; and that he has parted with the whole of his ready cash, when some of it would be of the most essential service; but his anxiety to get quickly settled, that he might not lose time, has prevented him using necessary caution in dealing with interested and artful persons—

a little delay, and some observation would have enabled him to discover, that there is no cash in the district; and that the superior price which was said to be offered for the land, was in produce, for which there is only a very distant market, and that price, too, most probably exaggerated for the purpose of obtaining more than double what he would have been able to have purchased for with hard cash, if he had been acquainted with the character of those he was dealing with, and the tricks they resort to, to defraud the inexperienced.

Thus fixed on his own estate, without money, and without labourers to cultivate his land, at an immense distance from any market where he can sell his scanty produce, our adventurer sits down a Kentucky Farmer—to labour more, and to suffer greater hardships, than any cottager in England—till his constitution is broken, and his spirits depressed, when he becomes as anxious to sell his land, as he was in the first instance to purchase; but, alas! he now finds the difference between buying an estate in America, and selling one—he can find no purchasers among his neighbours, except for produce, and he is 800 miles from a market where he can turn that produce into money. He is thus obliged to tug at the oar, sinking under bodi-

ly labour—living hardly—without friends—and desponding.—He must drag on a wretched existence to the end of his life, or part with his property for a mere trifle—unless he resolves to become himself a deceiver, and endeavour to overreach some new comer, in the same manner that himself was overreached. But—his honesty is not put to the proof; he has not an opportunity; new parts of the country are explored; extensive tracts are purchased by new speculators; new districts become the fashionable resorts of emigrants—for there is as much rage for new settlements as for any other fashion—the district that he is in becomes neglected—there is no purchaser—and he thus drags on an existence in a life of misery.

Thus it is with persons in most instances who go to America with small capitals as cultivators of the ground, even where there is no disputed title to the estate, and where there is some society. At the best it is a situation far from enviable. We shall soon see other modes of deception practised, and other hardships endured, which, when combined with the great distance from a market, will make this sketch, comparatively, appear ease and affluence.

The next fact that I shall state will be still in a settled part, and where the new

comer is defrauded still more ; for, in the first instance, he had only been overreached in the value of his land ; but the land itself still remained his property,

There is one tax levied in America, that appears moderate, and has been laid for the purpose of stimulating industry, extending the cultivation of land, and preventing extensive speculations ; but the Settler finds in practice that it presses heavily on him, on account of the want of cash—this is a land tax of one Dollar for every hundred acres of uncultivated land in the possession of a Settler. It may appear a mystery, that this tax should be converted into the means of defrauding the emigrant, but so it is ; and I will describe the manner.

It is too customary for men to purchase more new land (the American term for land not previously settled), on account of its comparatively low price, than they can cultivate, owing to the want of labourers ; and in many instances as a speculation, to hold till the value has encreased, by reason of the encreased population, which always raises the price of land in the immediate neighbourhood of such population ; but, as I stated before, another district has become the favourite, and this is neglected. In this case the cultivator has no market for his small produce—the

speculator has no purchasers for his land—and neither has the means to pay the tax. The result is, what is usual in all cases where taxes are not paid, the Collector distrains, and as much of the land is sold by the Sheriff of the County, as will satisfy the arrears of the tax, and the expenses.

The emigrant is frequently tempted to be the purchaser, for two reasons—the first is, the low price at which the land is sold; for the inhabitants are shy of purchasing at these sales, except on very low terms, their motives for which will soon appear; the other reason is, he supposes, as in England, that a title from the Sheriff of the county is one of the best that can be procured. He now takes possession, and begins with spirit to cultivate his small farm, which has not entirely exhausted his capital. He congratulates himself and family, on having been so successful in his purchase—for none of the inhabitants interfere, to give him information—and exerts himself to erect a house and outbuildings, to cultivate a garden, and plant an orchard; he clears land, he breeds poultry, and pigs, and looks forward to independency and comfort; while the person whose land was sold to him, looks at his progress and improvements with a malicious gratification.

When three years have nearly elapsed,

and the Settler has built himself a house ; has brought his garden into a good state of cultivation ; has planted an orchard, which is thriving, has cleared his land ; and thinks his hardships are at an end, he is overwhelmed with ruin, that comes upon him like a violent thunder storm in summer, which breaks upon the traveller on a sunshiny, placid, day, and bears down all before it, in ruin and destruction.

The law of the United States is, that land which has been sold under a distress for taxes can be redeemed within three years, by the original proprietor, on paying those taxes and the expenses. This law was framed no doubt on humane principles, that the industrious Settler in a new country should not have his little property wholly alienated from him, for a tax, without giving him time to exert himself for its redemption : but this humane clause has degenerated into a species of swindling, than which perhaps there is not a more atrocious specimen on the face of the globe. This accounts for the apathy of the Americans in purchasing at these sales ; and they are too strongly bound together in this chain of iniquity, to inform a well meaning stranger, ignorant of their laws, of what he has to expect, as to the result of his purchase.

When three years are thus nearly elapsed,

the original proprietor pays these arrears of the tax, for which the land was sold, and the expenses, and claims under the law to be put again in possession of his property ; this must be complied with ; and the unfortunate Settler is ousted out of his purchase, and the fruits of his labour and capital—he is obliged to give up his house ; his out houses ; his garden ; his orchard ; his cultivated land ; the improvements made by the exertions of himself and family, without any remuneration but the original purchase money, while the old proprietor prides himself on his finesse, and the great improvement of his property which he has obtained gratuitously ; and leaves the ruined emigrant to bewail and curse his folly, that ever tempted him to become an inhabitant of the State of Kentucky.

Reader, this account is not a fabrication ; would to God that numbers of emigrants could not bear witness to the truth of it. It is continually practised where opportunities occur.

With regard to the titles of land, the law suits respecting their validity are innumerable ; and an emigrant purchasing a farm of a farmer, is nearly certain of having included in the bargain three or four actions at law, to determine whose property it really is. These actions, it is true, are not so expensive as

actions at law in England ; but the expense is still a serious consideration : and the uncertainty and anxiety attending them are harrassing to the emigrant, who has already paid the purchase money, and they prevent him making exertions for the improvement of the farm. For what man would bring into action the whole of his energies and his capital, to improve his purchase, pending these suits of law, that may not be decided for years ; and which, when decided, may probably strip him of the property that he has paid for, and turn him adrift without any recompence.

About the year 1802, Henderson's Grant, a large tract of land, was puffed of, as being one of the most favourable situations in the Western States, with respect to climate, soil, healthiness, and navigation, being situated on the Green River, and near the Ohio : in consequence numbers of families were induced to take up lots ; that is, to purchase lots of this land, of the resident proprietor, as he represented himself, and paid the purchase money.

It being well known that this tract of land was originally a Grant from the American government, and that General Hopkins, the resident proprietor, was one of the heirs to the original grantee, the title was held to be undoubtedly good : the Settlers cultivated their farms, but without being able to obtain an

assignment of them ; some excuse or other being always made for the delay. This passed on for some years, when it was discovered that the Grant was not so healthy as it was at first represented, and many of the Settlers became desirous of selling their farms, and removing to some more favourite spot ; when it was too late discovered, that there was another party (a joint heir as I have understood) who must accede to the assignments to render them valid, but who refused to execute them, and thus the business remains at the present time. The purchasers, after having erected buildings, and improved their lots at a great expense of labour and money, are doubtful of being able to retain them ; and are unable to sell them—for the fact is too public for deception. They are thus condemned to reside upon an unhealthy spot, without the means of redress, and in a state of uncertainty, which paralyses their efforts, and renders them dissatisfied and desponding.

In speaking of Henderson's Grant, I will mention another circumstance, which may be a caution to single men who possess property, and who emigrate to the Western States of America.

Mr. John Slater, a friend of mine, was partial to America, and decided to spend the remainder of his life in that country : he went

over in the year 1805 ; and the manners and conversation of General Hopkins were so agreeable to him, that he resolved to become a resident on Henderson's Grant. He purchased some lots on it, and sate down to cultivate his land, and enjoy those pleasures that he had anticipated ; but he did not live to realize his expectations—whether it was owing to the unhealthiness of the Grant, or some other cause, he died in about fourteen months after his arrival, possessed of considerable property, which of right descended to his sister, in England. This property was completely unembarrassed ; and there was no plea whatever to prevent the successor taking immediate possession, on identifying her claim—but, a person on the spot, an intimate acquaintance of the deceased's, availed himself of the opportunity, and appropriated the whole to his own use ; and after thirteen years attempt there does not appear a probability of the rightful owner recovering any part of it. The practice of the law of the Western States being so lax, as to make it extremely uncertain whether the holder can ever be obliged to restore what he has so unjustly taken possession of.

If my friend looks from the grave on the transactions of this world, how will his soul be grieved at the direlection of the man who

professed himself to be his friend : high spirited himself, he detested a paltry, or a mean action ; for his mind was cast in an honourable mould, and was composed of honourable materials.

In these immense and uninhabited tracts, where accurate surveys have never been made, it is not uncommon for government grants to double on each other ; and when a purchaser has arrived at the place of his intended settlement, to find part of his land already occupied by a previous purchaser, who is in possession, and whom it would be both unjust and impossible to dispossess. What then can be done ! the last purchaser feels aggrieved, a law suit is the consequence ; and he generally endeavours to get rid of the difficulty, by selling his farm ; and the new comer finds, when it is too late, that he has purchased a law suit as well as the land ; and that he must either defend it, or give up part of his purchase. Thus disputed titles, and their consequent effects—law suits—harrass the Settler, drain his pocket, prevent exertion, and keep him in uncertainty and anxiety respecting his property.

These are some of the inconveniences attending the purchase of land, in even a settled part of the country ; the enumeration might be much extended, without departing from truth.

When an Emigrant resolves to go beyond the boundary of the settled country, on account of the cheapness of land, and set at defiance the difficulties of such a situation, he often finds a part of his purchase located ; that is, already occupied by some man of desperate fortune, who has pushed into the woods, and taken possession of a favourable spot, where he has built a log house, cultivated a small garden, perhaps cleared a little land, and, by the help of his gun, drags on a solitary, wretched, existence, cut off from society. This man it is difficult to dislodge, for I believe the laws of the United States do yet afford him some protection in the possession of the land he has located. This becomes a serious loss to the purchaser.

It will thus appear, that the Emigrant should use every precaution in his power before he purchases land in Kentucky. He ought to examine his intended purchase on the spot, and on no account whatever trust to description ; he should clearly define the boundaries ; he should satisfy himself, as far as possible, that the title is good : he may then purchase ; and the chances are more than equal that he will be overreached ; and when he enters to the possession of his land, that he also enters into a law suit to defend it.

Above all, no man should ever purchase

unsettled land in the States of America that is advertised for sale in Europe. If he should be so imprudent, he is sure to be deceived; for he may be certain it is land that no person who knows it will buy; and that it is in situations which will preclude it from being inhabited, till all the more favourable ones, which are almost innumerable, are occupied.

I will mention one instance: A native of Yorkshire, who came originally from Selby, and was settled in the metropolis in the medical profession, was seized with the mania of emigrating to Kentucky, and purchased ten thousand acres of land in that state at a public sale by auction in London; a friend of his, Mr. Slater, whom I mentioned before, remonstrated strongly with him, on his imprudence in making this purchase; and earnestly besought him to forbear buying any more till he was on the spot, in order to examine it personally, and to judge for himself of the quality and situation; but deaf to reason and advice, headstrong in his own opinion, and swayed by the lowness of the price, he purchased in the same way two other lots; the whole of his purchase amounting to thirty thousand acres, at an average of one shilling and six pence an acre; a price he held to be so cheap, that, let the land be ever so bad, the situation ever so unfavourable, it must be a great bargain, and

would ultimately enrich his family, and place his descendants in affluence.

He embarked for America, to take possession of his purchases ; and on his arrival found his friend's predictions fully verified. His land was barren, situated on rocky mountains, far removed from any Settlers ; no roads, no river in the vicinity ; and totally unfit for cultivation or settling. In fact, it was such land, and in such a situation, as no person in America would purchase. He consoled himself, however, when he found that his land abounded with coal, and calculated that he should be enriched by working it ; but this consolation was not of long continuance : his friend, who knew the customs and manners of the people better than himself, assured him, that the low price of land enhanced the price of labour, for any man could purchase a few acres by working a few months ; and every one preferred living upon his own property, however poorly, to being a servant ; so that it was difficult to procure labourers to work even above ground ; and he would find it impossible, while land continued so plentiful, to find men who would work in the bowels of the earth. Nay, that if it were possible to raise the coal—to transport it to Lexington, and pitch it in the marketplace ; then to send the bellman round the town to inform the inhabitants there was coal

to distribute gratis to those who would fetch it; that it would still remain on his hands, as the inhabitants would not burn it, preferring wood.

Thus his visionary expectations vanished; his property wasted; he became dissatisfied; the tax collector each year sold part of the land for non payment of the land tax; and this enthusiast in the purchase of land in America died a disappointed man; and his son, anxious to return to England, sold the remainder of his father's purchase, amounting to **MANY THOUSAND ACRES**, to a person in America, who knew the lots, for—**FIFTY DOLLARS!**

My veracity may be called in question, but I will conclude the statement: it may be supposed that the son, in his anxiety to quit America for ever, made an improvident bargain—No, it was not the son who made an improvident bargain, for—the purchaser followed him many miles, to induce him to retract and return him the purchase money.

I do not mention the name of this individual, who was ruined by his speculation; but it is not the less a fact. It is sufficiently well known to many in England; and is a matter of notoriety in Kentucky.

The emigrant, who has been ruined by the chicanery of the Kentuckians—the deluded labourer, who has been tempted to go to this

land of plenty, where wages are so high, and provisions so cheap, and who has sold his all to enable him to pay his passage—the small farmer, who has been misled by false reports of the fertility of the soil, and the fallacy of not having to pay rent or taxes, and whose resources have been exhausted by transporting his family and implements—are obliged to turn their backs on the settled parts of the country, and advance into immense forests, to take up their dreary residence among the wild beasts ; or select a spot on one of the extensive plains, which the Americans term “ Barrens,” where perhaps there is not a tree to be seen for miles.

It is impossible to describe justly the misery of these situations, or bring it home to the feelings of those who have passed the whole of their lives in civilized society ; whose eyes have ever been habituated to view cultivated grounds—inclosures with growing fences—roads leading from one town to another—villages and mansions with parks, interspersed at short distances from each other, with detached farm houses : or, if they have occasionally met with a plain, of a few hours journey across, still they beheld flocks of sheep, or herds of cattle, grazing, which enlivened the scene, and gave to the mind the feeling of being in an inhabited country, among civilized

beings, and where the next rising ground would open to their view a country in a high state of cultivation, and the inhabitants busy in their respective occupations. They have only travelled a few hours, as it were with a bandage over their eyes, or in the dark—they recover their sight, and all is again animation.

Not so in the wilds of America: the Adventurer, disappointed in the result of his speculation, is obliged to commence his dreary and silent journey, without one of these gladdening objects, to select some lonely spot for the future residence of himself and family.

The place he pitches on to locate, if he has not purchased land in the unsettled country, is frequently one hundred, or one hundred and fifty miles, or even more, from a town, or village; without roads of any description; in a forest impenetrable to the rays of the Sun, and of an extent to set at defiance any attempt to explore its boundaries, and in which he and his family, for some time, are in danger of being lost, if they stray a short distance from their dwelling; on the banks of a river, for the sake of water, and for the chance of seeing an occasional passenger, who steals his poultry and provisions, if he has any, and can find an opportunity; where the first thing he does is to build a log house, and clear a small portion of land, to sow a little wheat and maize,

In this residence the inhabitant is never enlivened by the busy hum of men; there is no society, even to quarrel with, to rouse the dormant faculties; no social neighbour to chat with on passing events; no newspaper to inform him of the occurrences of that society of which he has ceased to be a member; no traveller to stop and detail the transactions of the surrounding neighbourhood; no village feasts, weddings, or christenings, where friends and relations meet in social intercourse; no market where he can go once a week to sell the produce of his land, and procure in return the necessaries and comforts of life; no interesting bustle with his fellow labourers in getting in the harvest, nor any harvest home to celebrate with good cheer and jollity the housing of the bounty of Providence in the productions of the earth; no mill to grind his corn, to add to his domestic comforts; no joint of meat for his family's Sunday dinner; no means of education for his children, whose prospects must be heartrending to the feelings of a parent; no medical assistance if he should be ill of a fever, which are common in these situations, or if he break a bone, or cut himself with an axe in felling a tree; no help but what himself can afford if his wife should be in "that situation which all women wish to be who love their lords;" no sound of bells from

the parish church to summon him on Sundays to worship the ALMIGHTY, and return him thanks for the blessings he enjoys—for, alas ! he is far removed from all the comforts and blessings of civilized society.

No sounds strike his ear, but those he causes himself, except the echo of the sound of his axe, or the report of his gun, which only serve to make solitude still more solitary ; for here dismal silence has reigned for ages : his food limited, scanty, and uncomfortable ; his clothes such only as he can make in this desolate situation ; without the least prospect of ever bettering his condition, hope deserts him in this world ; he becomes sullen and morose ; and the only exertion that a feeling of piety can elicit is, to pray to the SUPREME BEING, that he may have fortitude to endure his situation, and not become a victim to despair.

Of other evils attending this miserable life in the woods, there is one which is so atrocious, that the mind revolts with indignation at the thoughts of it ;—there are a number of persons in Kentucky who reside entirely in the woods, and subsist on the produce of their guns, and on depredations—lawless and brutal, they are the connecting link ; or, I might more correctly say, they are the disconnecting link, between the Indians and the

Settlers ; strong, active, and fearless, owing to the life they lead—without religious or moral feelings—they plunder and murder the Indians without any provocation, or plea, but to obtain their property ; and plunder in like manner the Settlers when opportunities suit : these “ Hunters”, as they are termed, occasionally fall in with the residence of the solitary Settler ; and repeated instances have occurred, when the husband has been from home with his gun, for him to find on his return, his cabin plundered of his winter stock of provisions, his wife violated, and some of his daughters carried off, respecting whom he never more hears tidings ; and of whose melancholy fate he ever remains in total ignorance.

In the scale of morality, the Indian ranks as a demi-god, compared with these diabolical beings in the shape of men.

Can any young man of common feeling and spirit, when he is plighting his faith at the altar “ to love and cherish till death” an amiable and lovely female, whose affections he has gained by assiduous attentions, look forward to plunging her into such a life of misery as the unhappy settler endures, without feeling sensations of horror ? No ! forbid it every manly feeling ! They dictate to protect from the rude blasts of this world—as far as human powers will permit—the tender and

affectionate contributor to his comforts and happiness; the firm and faithful friend; the patient and incorruptible partner of his sorrows and misfortunes—his beloved wife.

Yet such a life many are forced into after their arrival in America; and such a life a person of the name of Stamp leads, who went from Howden, in Yorkshire, with the firm impression on his mind, of leading a life of ease, plenty, and comfort.

If this statement of the “Hunters” be thought too harsh, which I firmly believe is not, as I have my information from a disinterested source, and the person who gave it me is intimately acquainted with the country, let us see what a native writes on the spot; viz. a resident inhabitant of Kentucky, who printed and published his book at Lexington; and we can hardly suppose that he would give a false account, where it made against the character of the inhabitants. Those I have termed “Hunters,” he names “Frontier Rifle Men.”—

“We may learn of the Indians what is
“useful and laudable, and at the same time
“lay aside their barbarous proceedings. It
“is much to be lamented that some of our
“frontier rifle-men are prone to imitate them
“in their inhumanity. During the British
“war, a considerable number of men from

“ below Fort Pitt, crossed the Ohio, and
“ marched into a town of Friendly Indians,
“ chiefly Delawares, who professed the Mo-
“ ravian religion. As the Indians apprehended
“ no danger, they neither lifted arms nor fled.
“ After these rifle-men were sometime in they
“ massacred the whole town, without distinc-
“ tion of age or sex. This was an act of bar-
“ barity beyond any thing I ever knew com-
“ mitted by the savages themselves !”

As I have mentioned Log Houses, before we proceed any further I will describe them, for they are the usual residence of new Settlers ; except a few who purchase cultivated land and a dwelling house already erected at a very high price ; and even many of these are log houses, but of a superior kind, owing to great exertions and expense.

The Settler fells a number of trees of a small size, and cuts some of them to the length and others to the width of his intended house ; he then cuts each end half away to fit on each other and allow the trunks to lie as close together as the natural shape of the trees will admit ; he then piles them horizontally on each other, for the sides and ends of the house, till they are as high as he thinks necessary ; having left the ends of the trees sufficiently long to project at each angle, like a fork, he fixes upright in the ground, in each

of these angles, a small tree to prevent the walls of his house falling down: the door way and the window are formed by cutting perpendicularly down across the trees, and the roof is made of small wood covered with grass and leaves—this is a Log House, such as is built in the first instance, with a blanket hung up for a door and to cover the opening for light during the nights; as winter approaches he fills up the crevices with clay, to keep out the cold winds.

In the settled parts of the country the log houses are frequently made comfortable, by covering the sides and the roofs with clapboards, plastering the insides, and having doors and windows; but the solitary Settler has no such comfort, he and his family are exposed to every blast that blows, which penetrate through every part of his miserable hut; and, in addition, they are also nearly suffocated with smoke: in fact these rude log houses are greatly inferior to the commonest cottages in England.

There is a greater difference in the price of land in the Western States of America, than is generally supposed by those who emigrate; but on their arrival they discover, when it is too late, that cheap land is by no means a desirable purchase to reside on; and, like land in all other places, the best,

and that in the most desirable situations, bear a high price, comparatively; thus if the emigrant expected to purchase at half a dollar an acre, he will find, when he examines the lot, that it is far from any town, roads, or settlements; and the resident must be entirely cut off from society, and the means of disposing of his small produce, or the procuring of any of the necessaries of life; and he shrinks from making such a purchase.

He then looks at unsettled land in more favourable situations, at two dollars an acre, which is the usual price; he thus obtains one fourth of the quantity that he may have looked forward to for the same sum, and joins a few companions in the same speculation. These settlements are in general on the banks of rivers for the sake of conveyance and communication, for they have no roads; and if they be on flats, the inhabitants are almost certain to be subject to dangerous fevers; at the best they are placed in a most uncomfortable state: they have to build themselves log houses, to clear and break up land and sow corn, to make their gardens, to plant orchards, to breed and rear poultry and pigs; and before they can have any return, they must subsist without any of those comforts that they have been in the habit of enjoying, during their preceding life in society.

If the Emigrant cannot make up his mind to purchase land in such situations, and put up with these privations, he may purchase a still smaller quantity in the vicinity of towns; there he will meet with more society, will have more opportunities of disposing of his produce, may purchase land that is already cleared, with a house on it, and an orchard planted—but he must pay accordingly; and he may be startled when he is asked thirty dollars an acre, which is not an uncommon price; nay, land in the vicinity of Lexington, the capital of the State of Kentucky, sold some years ago for fifteen pounds an acre.

If he possesses skill as a farmer with great industry, he will find a lamentable difference between being a farmer in England, even as a tenant, and cultivating his own land in the Western States of America; in the former situation he could always procure labourers at moderate wages, to plough, to sow, to fence, to reap, to thrash his corn, or dress his flax, so as to make the best of every part of his land; and his prospects in life were reduced nearly to a certainty of being comfortable, with the exception of the seasons, which are above the control of human abilities: but in America, that land of freedom, every man is above being a servant; and the farmer, although on his own property, cannot cultivate

it beyond the exertions of himself and family—for he cannot obtain labourers; every man who emigrates calculates on being his own master, and, if his prospects are disappointed, he betakes himself to the woods, rather than to servitude.

If the Settler is determined to procure additional labourers, he must have recourse to that diabolical system, the purchase and employment of human beings, as slaves; and if he can reconcile his mind to this horrid practice, he will find himself not much better than he was before; for as the proud and haughty republican looks upon and treats both negroes and men of colour as beneath the brute creation, and thinks it a disgrace to be seen speaking to them, they, in return, bound by no ties of kindness, or reciprocal interest, endeavour to do as little as possible; and their labour is without energy, and nearly inefficient—but can this be wondered at!

To illustrate this relative situation between the America citizen and the men of colour, I will mention from good information, that if a tradesman, or any other person of respectable character, is seen holding conversation with them, it is held to be disgraceful to him, as much as if a man in a similar line of life in London was seen associating with pickpockets and housebreakers.

And in addition, a friend of mine, who has resided fourteen years in Kentucky, was in London about two years ago, and one evening, after walking a considerable distance, wished for some refreshment, when we went into a respectable public house, kept by a man of colour, who brought in what we asked for, when my friend whispered to me and asked, if that was the landlord? on my replying it was, he said, Good God! what did you come into such a house for? I answered, Why? it is a very respectable house: he observed, It may be so; but in America no respectable man would be seen in a house kept by a man of colour; and I wish we had not come in here.

In consequence of this feeling the people of colour are treated as if they were wild beasts, and shunned as much; the effect is, being looked on and treated as outcasts, they have become so, and all kindness is done away, and all confidence destroyed, between them and the inhabitants; and as might naturally be expected in such a situation, they have become unprincipled and lazy, and will not work without being continually overlooked; for they have no motive for exertion—freedom under such circumstances having no charms.

In the Western States the least complaint

against a negro slave is sure to cause him to be sent away, and sold to some distant place : a person that I was acquainted with, who went from near Howden to reside in Kentucky, had a negro slave whose character was good ; this slave spending an evening at a neighbour's had a few words with one of his servants or slaves ; the master made a complaint the next morning against him, when he was immediately sent to prison, and to New Orleans by the first conveyance, to be sold to some other master at a considerable distance ; and thus torn a second time from all his connexions, without having committed any crime.

The natives will not mix with the white population, nor can they by any means be induced to labour for them ; warriors from their youth, they devote their time to hunting and fishing for a livelihood and for barter ; and as population advances on their frontiers, they retire into the forests, after bloody struggles, and follow their favourite pursuits : faithful to their engagements, open and sincere in their friendships, dreadful in their enmities, they have been despoiled of their native grounds, they have been plundered of their effects, they have been destroyed as wild beasts, till their ferocity has been roused to the highest pitch, and they hate the name

and sight of an American; and there is a deadly feeling of vengeance between them.

The farmer is thus cramped in his means of cultivating his land, and of raising produce equal to the comfortable subsistence of himself and family: and the little that he can raise, he cannot dispose of, except in barter at a very low price. This will be best explained by a short view of the locality of the State, and the effect it has on the price of produce, and of manufactured articles that are become necessities of life.

The State of Kentucky is completely inland, being upwards of 600 miles from the Sea, across the Alleghany Mountains and down the Ohio: and nearly 800 miles from New Orleans, ascending, against the current, the rivers Mississippi and Ohio. And these are the only two lines for the conveyance of goods to this State.

In speaking of the communication to Lexington across the Alleghany Mountains, I cannot, perhaps, explain it more correctly, or satisfactorily, than by some extracts from Letters written to me by a friend who travelled that route with his family and goods, on emigrating from England, which will also explain the mode of travelling and the conveniences to be met with, as well as the inconveniences, difficulties, and expenses.

October.—"After a passage of fifty-one days we arrived at Baltimore, and took lodgings at five dollars per week each, the three children being reckoned as one, making fifteen dollars per week for my family.

"I have engaged two waggons, which we are going to load in the morning, at four dollars and a half for 100 lb. to Redstone; my family go in one of the waggons, at the same price as the goods, according to weight.

"After a tedious journey of twenty-two days from Baltimore, we arrived at Redstone (or Brownsville) on the Monongahela, where we found the water so low, that the waggons could ford it without reaching the axle tree; we were therefore obliged to take the waggons on to Wheeling, which took us four days longer; we then discharged them, and waited a week before we got a passage down the river.

"Our waggoners were two Dutch farmers, i. e. Americans descended from Dutch parents, near Battle Town, Virginia; we therefore went that road, and stopped two days at their houses, being neighbours; this was an agreeable rest from the fatigue of travelling. The road hitherto we thought very bad, but our troubles were only beginning, for in some places they were dreadful; yet the waggoners said they were in tolerable order. We were four or five days in getting over the mountains, all the time very cold, with two days snow and sleet. The accommodations much on a par with the roads.

"I suppose there were at least one hundred waggons with families moving from the Eastern to the Western States, not one of whom ever asked for a bed the whole way; those who do not camp out in the woods for the night, which is generally the case, lie down before the fire, men, women, and children; I have counted between thirty and forty in this way. We generally had good feather beds, though sometimes in very indifferent apartments, but never missed obtaining some sort, except at one place, where we were obliged to spread our mattresses in one corner of the room, and give up the advantage of the fire, rather than mix with the crowd. One of my waggons upset twice, and did some damage to the goods.

“Owing to the number of people going down the river, and the water being low, there was hardly any kind of a vessel to be got; however, after stopping a week, I espied a large Orleans boat coming down; I spoke the captain as soon as he came to land, and found he was a Kentucky farmer, who had been up to Pittsburgh to purchase a boat to take down 300 barrels of flour to Orleans, preferring to take his own and his sons produce to market, than selling it to others. I struck a bargain with him, to take my goods at half a dollar per 100 lb. and my family for six dollars, being two dollars each for myself and Mrs. —, and two dollars for the three children. I had sixty hundred weight of goods; he wanted one dollar per 100 lb. for the goods, and had he kept off two hours longer, he would have had it, for twenty waggons came in with goods for Lexington, that wanted forwarding, and nothing to take them.

“We all got on board, and a pretty lot there was—English, French, Dutch, Scotch, Irish, and Americans, men, women, and children, in all twenty-six, or twenty-eight persons, and two dogs, beside ten ton of goods, some of them very cumbrous, all in one room, and only one small fireplace to cook our different messes, and bake our bread, &c. In this situation we were twenty-three days, rowing in the day, and lying by at night; often had all the men to jump into the water, up to the middle, to work the boat off a sand bar, with every one a handspike; sometimes we got fast on a log, where the water was too deep to get out, and then we were obliged to take some other method; we were once three days, and only got six miles. Every evening we had to cut wood for the fire. What I expected would have been the pleasantest part of the journey, proved to be the worst, owing to the very low state of the water. Under these circumstances, you may be sure we were right glad to quit the boat.

“This boat was fifty-three feet long, and twelve feet wide, flat bottom, square built, except at the bow, which sloped up like your lighters, being all boarded except about six inches at top, to let in light and *cold*, and at the bow, which was open the whole width from the floor to the roof; with the load we had in it drew

about fifteen inches, when full loaded it would draw about eighteen, when light ten or twelve inches; it looked like a great unwieldy vessel, and brought to my recollection prints that I had seen of Noah's Ark.

"What they call Kentucky boats are smaller, being seldom more than from thirty to thirty-five feet long, and have a sloping roof; as they cannot go on the top, they are obliged to steer from the inside, through a hole. The Orleans boat cost at Pittsburgh 106 dollars; a Kentucky boat costs about 40 dollars. These vessels never come up the river again.

"We were sadly tired of the waggons when we got to Wheeling, but when we arrived at Limestone we were very thankful to take to them again, and in three days arrived at Lexington, being just five months after we left Liverpool."

The following extracts are from the letters of my friend's Wife to her relations, written at the same period; viz. just after their arrival at Lexington.

"You are to consider this letter as from Mr. — as well as from myself; he has so much writing about business, that he thought he should not have leisure to write you himself at this time; but I fear I shall not do justice to his opinion of this country, as my account will not be so favourable as his would have been; at the same time I think he was rather disappointed, though he still thinks very highly of it. However I shall give you my opinion candidly, and you may judge for yourself; and though I do not, and think I never shall, like it, I will still endeavour to do justice.

"The climate, which we were taught to believe was much more settled than in England, we have found just the contrary, and the inhabitants say it is always the case; and allow it to be as unsettled as any climate in the world. One part of a week we have been very cold when seated by a good fire, and the other part we could do without fire, and sit with the windows open.

"The great scarcity of money is a sad drawback; was that not the case it would be a good place for all trades and professions to come to, for the people are

not afraid of laying out their money, when they have it, but it is so rare as to oblige them to exchange one sort of goods for another.

“As we travelled through the country I thought the lower class extremely indolent; they get victuals with little trouble, and it seems that is all they care for; they want something as a stimulus to industry; they are not so well off, in my opinion, as the poor are who must either work or starve. Their habitations are wretched in the extreme, and their children ragged and dirty; in short I have seen as much wretchedness in America as I ever did in England.

“Provisions here are in general cheap, excepting groceries; but not more so than my father and mother have known them in Yorkshire. The butcher’s meat is very inferior to yours, particularly veal, which is sad stuff. I have not seen any fish, and believe there seldom is any. Groceries, wearing apparel, and, I believe, every other article in housekeeping, are very dear; we give two shillings per pound for common loaf sugar, and have given eighteen pence for moist.

“I hope you enjoy good health, and that you are prosperous in business; if not, I shall wish you had come with us; I should not be afraid of your getting a living here, because you will live any where; the fatigue, trouble, and expense, are certain; but very uncertain the success. If you can get a comfortable living, be contented, you could do no more here, nor would it be unattended with care. Give my love to your wife, and say, she must not think of undertaking this journey, but with one of the best and most indulgent husbands in the world; and also to stock herself well with patience; for there are difficulties enow in the Alleghany Mountains to try both strength and patience.

“Make my respects to Mr. Savage, and say, that with all due deference to his better judgement, I think if he could sit down in his own garden, and read a book of his own printing, it would afford him as much real satisfaction as sitting under a tree (though it should be a sugar tree) counting his flocks and herds, and directing his plough, &c.”

This paragraph was in allusion to some conversations in which I had spoken of the

pleasures of a country life, and its superiority over a town life, both with respect to health and morals.

“ We are all in good health, which you will almost wonder at, when you compare the comfortable houses we are accustomed to in England with this we at present inhabit, which from the scarcity of houses here, we are even glad to occupy so recently built, as not to admit of its being plastered. We can see light through the brick walls in many places ; the bitter cold wind penetrates through every part of our bed room, without curtains to either bed or windows, a luxury few enjoy here.

“ Our journey by land was five times worse than the sea, with this exception, that I was very well most of the way, and therefore better able to bear it : it was very dreary, very tedious, and the roads such as you would not think passable in England for a carriage of any kind ; ours was a waggon, and I believe it to be the best and safest way, except on horseback. We seldom travelled more than twelve miles a day ; and it took us more than three weeks to perform. We had generally very bad accommodation at nights, though always good beds ; but very little blanket, and only one dirty sheet allowed. I was obliged to repair the broken windows with the children’s top coats, hats, &c. They all talked of repairing when the cold weather came—though we had then frost and snow.

“ After a week’s rest at Wheeling, we began to descend the Ohio, in a boat—not quite an open boat, but it would admit all kinds of weather that Providence sent. We had four different families, all to cook for separately by one small fire : in short, I think any one who performs such a journey, ought to live free from care, and in perfect ease, the rest of their lives.

“ I have inquired what places of worship there are, and am told there are two or three Meeting Houses and a Presbyterian Chapel ; but knowing there are such places is quite sufficient for any of our acquaintance, for I suppose they were never in them, except to look at the building.

“ The remembrance of my dear country, and its

still dearer inhabitants, makes me not like this place so well as I might otherwise do: it is allowed to be a fine country, and I do not think myself a sufficient judge, either to approve or contradict the opinion, particularly as I have seen so little of it; but I certainly do not view it, or its advantages, in so favourable a light as it has been represented; and think those must be strongly prejudiced against England who can give this country the preference.

“The hot weather, when at Baltimore, obliged me to become fashionable; I cast off all my clothes but a shift, muslin gown, and handkerchief, and was too warm then; what is to become of me this summer I do not know; but they say it is not so hot here; if it be, I must make some smart shifts, with tucks, or flounces, as the Baltimore ladies do; this is a fact I assure you.

“Servants wages are extravagantly high; we have an elderly negro woman, who is to have twelve guineas a year wages, and does not do near the work that an English servant will. If those who are dissatisfied with their servants in England should come here, they would return more contented; for in general they are a bad set here; there are no white servants.”

As these were private letters, written to relations and friends, without any interested motives, they may fairly be presumed to speak the opinions of the writers, and express the impression that America made on their minds; and I think it just to extract from both, because my friend was a voluntary emigrant, his wife an involuntary one.

I sincerely wish that I had it in my power to state, with truth, that the result of this instance of emigration to Kentucky proved successful—it was the reverse; and her friends have to regret, that an amiable and accomplished woman should be doomed to pass a

great part of her life separated from them and her relatives in such a situation.

In looking at the conveyance by this route, it will be evident that cumbrous or low priced goods, or articles liable to be damaged by rugged roads, could not be conveyed across the Alleghany Mountains to Kentucky without incurring an expense that must enhance the price exorbitantly ; for it cost my friend upwards of seventy pounds for the conveyance of himself and family and luggage, without including his lodgings and provisions on the road ; and it took them fifty-seven days to travel from their landing place to the end of their journey.

The other line of communication ; up the Mississippi and Ohio, from New Orleans, nearly 800 miles, is also uncommonly tedious and expensive ; not can this be wondered at when the distance is considered, and the whole of it is against the stream.

It appears clear that all kinds of goods carried to the Western States of America must be extremely dear, owing to the length of time they take for their conveyance, the great distance, and the high price of carriage. The Emigrant is thus nearly excluded from the use of them, not possessing the means of purchase.

I have the Journal before me, of another

friend, who has travelled repeatedly through the Western States, has been several times down the rivers to New Orleans with goods, and returned over land on horseback ; from this Journal I will make a few extracts, which will shew the price of many articles : and will also give some other information respecting the country.

“ Set of Horse Shoes, four dollars.

At Onandinga Horse Shoe, five shillings.

Shoes, ten to fifteen shillings a pair.

Boots, ten to twelve dollars a pair.

Beaver Hats, ten dollars.

Common Hats, six to seven dollars.

Salt, three dollars a bushel.

Salt Mackarel two shillings and three pence each.

Loaf Sugar, 75 cents a pound.

Beer, 75 cents a quart.

Porter, half a dollar a bottle.

Candles, two shillings and six pence a pound.

Saddles, twelve to thirty dollars.

Bridles, one dollar and a half to seven dollars and a half each.

Horses, one hundred to one hundred and fifty dollars.

Six Sheep for ten dollars.

Iron, 12½ to 20 cents a pound.

Shot, 25 cents a pound.

Sickles, one dollar and a half to one dollar and three quarters each.

Spades, two dollars.

Ladies Slippers, two dollars and a half to three dollars a pair.

Windsor Chairs, two dollars and a half to three dollars each.

Lay four in a bed, or on the floor.

Farmer ploughing, his Wife assisting him.

Farmer expects to lose his plantation and improvements, his title not good.

Christian Court House is but an ordinary place, full of sink holes, and few log houses ; the inhabitants dissipated, more like pagans than Christians.

Land twelve dollars an acre, nine miles from Lexington.

Interest for money is generally one dollar for twenty per month, and paid in advance.

Hogs are numerous, but great many killed by the wolves.

Paid a quarter of a dollar and five pence to sleep.

Turnpike, twelve cents.

Met a great number of waggons loaded with pot and peel; though it is Sunday the people travel here as much as on any other day.

Currency eight shillings a dollar.

Turnpikes every ten miles, four cents toll; in Vermont twelve cents toll the same distance, and roads much worse.

Farmer asks thirty dollars an acre for his land.

Turnpikes every ten miles; roads very bad; up to the horse's knees.

Many beds in a room. Many prefer sleeping on a buffalo rug on the floor.

Toll for grinding corn by horses, one gallon for a bushel.

When it is considered that all the surplus produce must be sent to New Orleans, for exportation, a distance, as I observed before, of nearly 800 miles; that a boat is to be purchased at a considerable expense to convey it down, and that this boat cannot again ascend the stream, but must be sold for firewood; that people must be engaged to go with it, and a trusty person to sell it, who in general travel back across the country on horseback, about seven hundred miles, and have to ford rivers, or swim their horse across them, and often sleep on the ground, wrapped up in a blanket, it cannot be supposed the farmer can obtain much for his produce.

When it is also considered, that he has no labourers—that the whole of his produce must be raised by himself and family, only—that he has to make himself every necessary and comfort of life—to clear his ground of trees—to fence and drain—to preserve fodder as a provision for his few cattle during their severe winters—to do every thing with his own hands—and then to sell his surplus at the very low price that it must necessarily fetch under such circumstances ; it cannot, I say, be wondered at, that he has it not in his power to procure many of the comforts of civilized life, and that he is nearly a stranger to them, owing to their extremely high price.

If he borrows money, the interest is destructive ; being at the rate of sixty per cent. per annum, and a month's interest paid in advance, so that in twenty months he will have to pay interest to the amount of the sum borrowed, a plan that must inevitably be ruinous to the borrower. This is illegal, it is true ; but the law is avoided, by an engagement to pay the legal interest, and the additional is termed, “ on honour.”

The scarcity of money has also had a great effect on the currency, so that a dollar in many places passes for eight shillings ; this currency of the dollar has been frequently used as a deception to induce emigration ;

and a labourer or mechanic has been told that he could procure eight shillings a day for his work, in a country where provisions are cheap to an extreme: he has been induced to make the trial, and at the end of the week, when he expected to receive forty-eight shillings, he has been paid with six dollars; on remonstrating, and asking for the remainder, he is answered with—"O, that is forty-eight shillings; go to any Store, and they will take your dollar for eight shillings." This is true; but then they charge in proportion for every article; for the real value of the dollar after all is only four shillings and six pence.

This increased currency affects the fractional parts of a dollar in a material degree, and is a great loss to those who have to purchase small quantities of goods; for, as the real value of a cent—the one-hundredth part of a dollar—is little more than one halfpenny, the current value is something less than one penny, the person who carries to America shillings and sixpences, pays nearly double the value for what he purchases.

This will be seen more clearly by the following Table, which is at the currency of seven shillings and six pence for a dollar; desiring the reader to keep in mind that the real value of the dollar is only four shillings and six pence.

“ A TABLE
of the Value of Shillings and Pence, from One Penny to
Seven shillings and Six-Pence, in CENTS as computed
at the Banks at Philadelphia.”

s.	d.	cts	s.	d.	cts	s.	d.	cts	s.	d.	cts	s.	d.	cts
0	1	1	1	7	21	3	1	41	4	7	61	6	1	81
0	2	2	1	8	22	3	2	42	4	8	62	6	2	82
0	3	3	1	9	23	3	3	43	4	9	63	6	3	83
0	4	4	1	10	24	3	4	44	4	10	64	6	4	84
0	5	5	1	11	25	3	5	45	4	11	65	6	5	85
0	6	7	2	0	27	3	6	47	5	0	67	6	6	87
0	7	8	2	1	28	3	7	48	5	1	68	6	7	88
0	8	9	2	2	29	3	8	49	5	2	69	6	8	89
0	9	10	2	3	30	3	9	50	5	3	70	6	9	90
0	10	11	2	4	31	3	10	51	5	4	71	6	10	91
0	11	12	2	5	32	3	11	52	5	5	72	6	11	92
1	0	13	2	6	33	4	0	53	5	6	73	7	0	93
1	1	14	2	7	34	4	1	54	5	7	74	7	1	94
1	2	15	2	8	35	4	2	55	5	8	75	7	2	95
1	3	17	2	9	37	4	3	57	5	9	77	7	3	97
1	4	18	2	10	38	4	4	58	5	10	78	7	4	98
1	5	19	2	11	39	4	5	59	5	11	79	7	5	99
1	6	20	3	0	40	4	6	60	6	0	80	7	6	100

Thus if a person carries to Philadelphia from England seven shillings and six pence, and exchanges them for cents, he just gets in return the value of a dollar; and loses in proportion by any thing he purchases with the same money.

The paper money is also another great evil to the population: in England we thought it paltry to issue notes so low as one guinea, or one pound; but in America the Bankers have gone far beyond ours; for to supply the want of cash, they have issued Notes so low as

Three Pence, and these are at a great discount. Thus instead of lessening the evil they have encreased it; and cash has almost entirely disappeared.

The great mass of the population of the Western States is farmers, and, situated as I have described, money must be extremely scarce among them. When they are much pressed, they endeavour to borrow, even at the ruinous rate mentioned before, and every purchase that is made is paid for with bills, which are rarely paid when due; actions are then commenced for the payment, and the debtor is thrown into gaol; and he only obtains his liberty by giving up the whole of his property to his creditors, or sacrificing the little produce he has, for the debt and law expenses, by selling it at a deteriorated price.

In these States it is notorious that bills are seldom paid when due, and actions to recover them are so numerous and common, that to throw a man into prison for debt causes no enmity or illwill: a friend of mine who resides in Kentucky, told me, that he has commenced twenty one actions at the same time to recover debts, and that he was on friendly terms with the whole of the parties at the same time; it being looked on as a matter of course.

Can this state of society, and manner of

living, be sufficient, when it is known, to tempt an English Farmer to leave his native land for the wilds of America; and exchange the comforts of one situation for the miseries of the other?

Among the disagreeables attending such a life, I have not enumerated the danger of living near the frontiers, arising from the ferocity and revenge of the Indians, which frequently cause families to be massacred; nor have I mentioned Bears, Wolves, and venomous Serpents, which are plentiful; as I only wished to describe the state of society: the vicinity of these dangerous neighbours I believe every Englishman would wish to avoid.

The result of another instance of emigration from Howden may serve as a warning to those who endeavour to encrease their property by marriage—particularly if it be with the widow of a Kentucky farmer, who is the owner of negro slaves.

A person that I knew from infancy went to Kentucky, and took with him about four hundred pounds; he possessed some abilities, had a high opinion of them, and stiled himself civil engineer; some time after his arrival his second wife died: he subsequently paid his addresses to a widow who was the proprietor of a farm and five negro slaves; she accepted him for a

husband, for he was a good looking, portly, man, and plausible in his manners; but she secured her property to herself. Some time after the marriage, he began to lord it over his wife with a high hand, as he had been in the habit of doing before; but this behaviour did not suit the feelings of the republican dame; and one day, after a violent altercation, to shew that she would not be mastered by an Englishman, she ordered her negroes to seize her liege lord and master, and give him a good flogging, which they did with great glee and a cat-o-nine tails.

When this was done, the wife, knowing that they could not live together on any amicable terms after this violent breach of prerogative, went to the different Stores, and took up what goods she could on credit; which, as they were both known to be people of property, she did to a considerable amount, and separated from him.

As soon as this was known, the Storekeepers came upon the husband for the debts, which he refused to pay; and they immediately commenced actions to recover them.

My countryman, thinking he was equal to any American, or the whole of the Storekeepers put together; and resolved that his wife should not be his superior, in this instance, of making him pay her debts, went to an

intimate acquaintance of his, who was deputy Sheriff of the county, and deposited with him fifteen hundred dollars, the whole of his individual property, and went into the bounds; (so they call a prison for debtors) he then conformed to the American law, which clears a debtor on taking an oath that he has given up the whole of his property to his creditors. This done, our ingenious Yorkshireman laughed at the Storekeepers, whom he had foiled, exulted over his wife who had failed in making him pay her debts; and then went with a smiling, victorious, countenance to his friend, to receive back his fifteen hundred dollars.

A Yorkshireman is generally said to be equal in shrewdness and cunning to any other man; and his keenness has become proverbial, in the expression "A Yorkshire bite;" and this person thought himself on a footing with any in his native county—but he was inferior to the American; who laughed in his face when he asked for the money; denied having any belonging to him; and set him at defiance.

Flogged by his wife's negroes, by her orders, with a cat-o-nine tails, and she exulting over him—made responsible for her debts, that she had purposely contracted—confined in a prison on that account—declaring himself insolvent—defrauded of the whole of his property by an acquaintance, in his endeavours

to resist the payment of debts to bona fide creditors—he became a ruined man; and the whole of the circumstances becoming known, he was obliged to leave the county, and now keeps a school in some distant part from the scene of action.

If an English Emigrant wishes to be well received in America, he must on landing discard every appearance of loyalty to his natural Sovereign, and abuse both him and his native land; and the more coarse and virulent this abuse is the heartier will be his welcome; for the Americans, generally, bitterly hate both England and her loyal population; and let the new comer wish that England was sunk in the sea, and the Prince Regent beheaded, and then he will be deemed worthy of becoming a good American Citizen.

This cannot well be wondered at, when we consider of what the great mass of population is composed—the disaffected in politics and the traitors to their country, from all parts of Europe, to whom England is obnoxious, on account of the noble and glorious stand she made for the preservation of social order—and from the same source are collected the swindler, and the ruined tradesman who has defrauded his creditors; with the deceived agriculturist, who, ruined by the speculation, becomes as desperate as the others—all flock

to America, who receives them with open arms: and from such a mixture what good can be expected!

In conversing with an acquaintance, a resident of Kentucky, on the morals of the inhabitants, and the state of society, he assured me that he would much sooner trust himself with the Indians than with the white population; for with the natives he should be sure of being treated with good faith and friendship; but with the others, every man with whom he might have dealings would endeavour to defraud him. And he illustrated this opinion in the following manner:—

Suppose, he said, you and I were to go into a public house in London, frequented by nothing but gamblers, swindlers, and pick-pockets; and that we, with an intention of playing fairly, should sit down with them to a game of chance, or skill; what would be the consequence?—Why, that we should inevitably be cheated of our money—But in Kentucky it is worse; for in the one case you would only have about twenty against you; but in the other the whole population is acting the same part; and every individual, in every instance, is trying to cheat you—in fact, it is impossible for an honest man to live in Kentucky.

My informant might have gone further

without violating truth ; for the skillful swindler who goes among them with an intention to practise his arts to gain money, fails—because they are equally skillful, and he is only one against numbers : the odds beat him.

I believe I am borne out by history when I say, that the republican form of government is the most tyrannical and unfeeling of all others ; and when the demagogue, dissatisfied with limited monarchy, flies to America, to put in practice his opinions, he finds himself wofully mistaken in the result : like the swindler, he has none to act on but those of his own opinion ; and they, equally wedded to stern and tyrannical notions, will not bend to an individual, even though a staunch republican. He thus becomes more dissatisfied and morose ; for the republican must be a tyrant—and he has none to tyrannize over, but his wife, his family, and slaves, and their situation is not to be envied.

The farmer, we have seen, has a very poor chance of bettering his condition ; for the change is almost inevitable ruin, notwithstanding all that has been written by interested persons to the contrary : and however strong the assertion may be held, that has been made to me, yet I credit it—that there is not an English farmer in Kentucky, who has resided there seven years, but who would

gladly return to England, if he could do so without sacrificing the whole of his property, and returning a beggar.

Mr. Richard Parkinson, a practical English farmer, emigrated to America, and lived there some years; after giving the country a fair trial in different situations, he returned to England disgusted with their manners, and perfectly convinced a farmer could not do any good, on account of the want of labourers, and the low price that was obtained for produce. Before his return he travelled over a considerable part of the country, to look at different farms that were offered to him; but after examining personally many of them, he saw none that could induce him to purchase; nor any thing sufficiently tempting to cause him to remain in the country; and perfectly convinced that an English farmer could not live with any comfort in America, he returned to Old England.

I spent an evening in his company some time after his return, when he assured me, that if a land owner would make him a present of five hundred acres of the best land in America, he would not accept it, if he was bound to reside on it; for that no man could make a comfortable living there as a farmer. At the time I thought the assertion was very strong, and was the effect of dissatisfaction, arising

from the failure of his previous speculation; but subsequent information has satisfied me that he was right in his opinion; for I believe no farmer who has followed his occupation in England, and tried America, would accept the offer.

The climate, too, which has been so much praised, has also been as much falsified: in summer it is very hot, but very uncertain; sometimes the thermometer being at 90° in the shade, and falling 18° in few hours; and in winter being frequently more than 40° below the freezing point at noon; a degree of cold we are unacquainted with in England.

The following is an extract of a letter from Kentucky, in an American paper, dated June 8; taken from the Times newspaper of July 8, 1819, which will shew the state of the country at a recent date.

“ Never, within the recollection of our
“ oldest citizens, has the aspect of the times,
“ in regard to property and money, been so
“ alarming. Already has property been sacri-
“ ficed in considerable quantities, in this and
“ our neighbouring counties, for less than half
“ its value. We have but little money in cir-
“ culation, and that little is daily diminishing
“ by the great calls of the various Banks; nei-
“ ther land nor any other article can be sold
“ for half its value in cash, while executions

“ to the amount of many hundred thousand
“ dollars are hanging over the heads of our
“ citizens, and perhaps, in a short time, no
“ debts will be paid, and no money will be in
“ circulation even to answer the ordinary pur-
“ poses of human life. Warrants, writs, and
“ executions will be more abundant than
“ Bank notes, and the country will present a
“ scene of sacrificing for the poor remnants of
“ individual fortunes.”

In addition to these disadvantages, there is one serious evil in perspective, which will advance to the foreground, and involve the country in ruin and desolation: this will be a civil war. The inhabitants of the Western States, composed of the restless and turbulent surplus of Europe, are already dissatisfied with the government of the United States, and openly avow that their territory is too extensive, and the population too great, to continue subject to the Eastern States; that they are powerful enough to assert and maintain their independence, and to make themselves masters of Mexico:—but, if they postpone their intentions long they will be disappointed; for there is another rising State that will take the lead; and already boasts that it is equal in extent to China; that it abounds with fine harbours, and outlets to the sea; and that it must become the most powerful nation in the

world ; and that Kentucky and the Western States being so inland, and having no communication with the sea, but through its territories, must be inferior States, and subordinate either to this new State, or to the Eastern States, and be insignificant in point of consequence.

In what a degrading light does this new State hold their proud and arrogant neighbours ; but a few years will shew, if the State of Missouri can realize its ambitious views.

In what I have written I have had no intention of arraigning the American Government, nor the Eastern States ; I have only spoken of the population of the Western States, and of the inconveniences and miseries that attend the Emigrant who bends his steps to that part of America ; and I have written nothing but what I firmly believe to be truth ; my sources of information have not been few, and were disinterested.

Can any Englishman with true English feelings reconcile his mind—when he knows what he has to expect by the change—to leave his native country which is the admiration of the world, for greatness, courage, liberality, magnanimity, good faith, and administration of justice—can the serious and religious man feel comfortable and happy—can the honest and industrious farmer and mecha-

nic live with their minds at ease—as a part of such an artificial population, that feels no interest nor attachment for the land they live in, being in fact aliens—for such is the population of the Western States of America.

If they can, they must abjure the name of Englishmen, and abuse both England and their native Sovereign—they must load with obloquy all that in their infancy and youth they were taught to revere—they must, when it suits the ambitious views of America to declare war against England, take up arms against their mother country, for once settled in America they become American Citizens—and they must deny that, which in all other parts of the world is a matter of pride and glory; of being an Englishman—or else their lives will be still more miserable than I have depicted: they will be scoffed at, reviled, and abused.

THE END.







